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CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of disinfecting or sanitising a space occupied by airborne microorganisms and/or viruses, which method comprises directing into the space liquid droplets from a spray device containing a disinfecting or sanitising composition, a unipolar charge being imparted to the liquid droplets by double layer charging during the spraying of the liquid droplets from the spray device, the unipolar charge being at a level such that said droplets have a charge to mass ratio of at least $\pm 1 \times 10^{-4}$ C/kg, wherein the liquid droplets, being mutually repelled from one another, spread out to a greater extent than similar particles in an uncharged state and thus are capable of eliminating said airborne microorganisms and viruses whilst the droplets are airborne.

2. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the spray device is an aerosol spray device.

3. (previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the disinfecting or sanitising composition is an emulsion.

4. (previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the liquid droplets have a diameter in the range of from 5 to 100 micrometres.

5. (previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the unipolar charge is imparted to the liquid droplets solely by the interaction between the liquid and the spray device, without any charge being imparted thereto from an internal or external charge inducing device.

6. (previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein the required droplet charge to mass ratio is imparted to the droplets as a result of the use of an aerosol spray device with at least one of the features of:

(a) the material of the actuator,

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- (b) the size and shape of the orifice of the actuator,
- (c) the diameter of the dip tube,
- (d) the characteristics of the valve, and
- (e) the formulation of the disinfecting or sanitising composition contained within the aerosol spray device

being chosen in order to achieve said droplet charge to mass ratio by double layer charging imparting the unipolar charge to the droplets during the actual spraying of the liquid droplets from the orifice of the aerosol spray device.

7. (previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the disinfecting or sanitising composition comprises: an oil phase; and aqueous phase; a surfactant; an anti-bacterial agent, a fungicide or an anti-viral agent; and a propellant.

8. (previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 7 in which the composition comprises, as an anti-bacterial or anti-viral agent, an essential oil selected from the group consisting of thyme, lemon grass, lemon, orange, grapefruit, yeast, oregano, anise, clove, cinnamaldehyde, cinnamon, carvacrol, rose, lavender, citronella, eucalyptus, peppermint, camphor, sandalwood, juniper berry, Siberian pine needle, pine sylvester, tea tree, litsea, rosewood, patchouli, vetyver, cedarwood and mixtures thereof.

9. (previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 7 which comprises a quaternary ammonium compound as an anti-bacterial agent.

10. (previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the oil phase includes a C₉-C₁₂ hydrocarbon.

11. (original) A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the C₉-C₁₂ hydrocarbon is present in the composition in an amount of from 2 to 10% w/w.

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12. (previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the surfactant is glyceryl oleate or a polyglycerol oleate.

13. (previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the surfactant is present in the composition in an amount of from 0.1 to 1.0% w/w.

14. (previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the propellant is liquefied petroleum gas.

15. (original) A method as claimed in claim 14 wherein the propellant is present in the composition in an amount of from 20 to 50% w/w.

16. (new) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the space to be disinfected or sanitised comprises micrococcus lutens bacteria.